THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE V.V.S.RAO

WRIT PETITION No.12088 of 2007

Dated:06.07.2007

Between:

Gandikota Venkappa, S/o.Late Pedanarayudu,
and others.

…Petitioners

and

The District Collector, West Godavari, and others.

…Respondents.

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ORDER:

The petitioners allege that they have different extents of land in various survey numbers situated at Rajulapeta Village, Hamlet of Kollaparru, Akividu Mandal in West Godavari District. It is alleged that respondents 6 to 8 are indulging in illegal, unauthorized and unlawful activity of prawn culture by converting various extents of agricultural lands in R.S.Nos.363/1, 2, 3 and 365/1, 2, 3 in the said Village, without obtaining permission under Coastal Regulation Zone, causing pollution of ground water, damaging the crops, and making the lands unfit for cultivation by seepage and percolation of saline water. Therefore, the petitioners are not able to carry on their agricultural operations. They approached respondents 1 to 4, in vain. Therefore, they filed the instant writ petition seeking a direction to respondents 1 to 4 to take necessary action against respondents 6 to 8.

This Court ordered notice on 12.06.2007 and permitted the learned Counsel for the petitioners to serve notices. After service of notices, the petitioners' Counsel filed memo of proof of service along with acknowledgement in evidence of proof of service.

A Division Bench of this Court in **Madireddy Padma Rambabu v District Forest Officer, Kakinada**[1] decided similar cases and directed the Revenue Authorities not to permit the conversion of agricultural land for the purpose of fish culture/prawn culture/shrimp culture, and also directed to remove all the illegally developed prawn culture tanks. Therefore, this writ petition is disposed of, directing the third respondent to inspect the area, conduct enquiry and take appropriate action against respondents 6 to 8 after issuing notices to them. It is made clear that if respondents 6 to 8 have already approached the Aquaculture Authority, Chennai, or have already obtained permission for conversion of land as prawn culture tank from such Authority, the same shall have to be taken into

consideration by the third respondent. The enquiry may be completed and appropriate orders may be passed within a period of eight (8) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

The writ petition, with the above observations and directions, is accordingly disposed of. No costs.

(V.V.S.RAO, J)

06.07.2007
vs

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[1] 2002(1) ALD 728 (DB)